

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 727

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Jennifer Hatcher and Mr. Chuck Yoest as runners-up in the American Farm Bureau Federation Excellence in Agriculture Award Program.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as agricultural and civic leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy couple is the husband and wife team of Mr. Chuck Yoest and Dr. Jennifer Hatcher of Williamson County, who recently finished national competition as runners-up in the American Farm Bureau (AFBF) Excellence in Agriculture Award Program; and

WHEREAS, this program is designed to present an opportunity for young farmers and ranchers to earn recognition while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture; participants are also rated on their involvement in civic, service, and community organizations and their leadership ability; and

WHEREAS, as runners-up for the national AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award, Chuck and Jennifer will receive a Case IH Farmall 45A tractor from Case IH, a cash award, merchandise from Stihl, and the opportunity to expand their platform from which to advocate for agriculture and today's farmers; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Yoest and Jennifer Hatcher have been married for four years, and their lives are dedicated to Christian faith, farming, and advocating for agriculture together; and

WHEREAS, they reside on Hatcher Family Dairy farm, which is owned by Jennifer's father and uncle and has been operated by the family since 1831; Chuck and Jennifer are

actively engaged in both the dairy and the mixed animal veterinary practice that is also located on the farm; and

WHEREAS, they are founding members of the current Young Farmers and Ranchers organization in Williamson County and are active members of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Hatcher is a fifth-generation dairy farmer with an extensive background in agriculture and has been very active in 4-H and agricultural programs throughout her life; following her quest to become a second-generation large animal veterinarian, she earned a doctorate of veterinary medicine; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Yoest hunted, fished, played baseball, worked for local farmers, and participated in FFA, 4-H, and Boy Scouts of America as a youth before earning a Bachelor of Science honors degree in wildlife from the University of Tennessee, where he was an active member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, following college, Chuck worked for the Farm Services Agency before being hired as a wildlife officer; in 2010, he was promoted to the state wildlife biologist/coordinator position that he now holds; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jennifer Hatcher is a mixed animal practitioner and manager of her family's veterinary practice, which provides services to large animal clients within a 200-mile radius; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hatcher takes great pride in offering a positive learning environment for veterinary students who do not have food/farm animal backgrounds; her clinic provided food animal externships for fifteen students in 2012 alone; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hatcher helps these veterinary students appreciate and understand rural animal medicine and life in an agricultural community and inspires some of them to work in rural communities in need of large animal veterinarians; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Yoest serves as a statewide wildlife biologist for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; his overall responsibilities include overseeing the management of white-tailed deer, wild hogs, and elk, and he is a member, leader, and coordinator for the Wild

Hog Eradication Action Team within Tennessee and a Wild Hog Working Group that is dedicated to eradicating wild hogs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Yoest also manages depredation programs for elk and deer to minimize crop damage and provide assistance to landowners; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Dr. Jennifer Hatcher and Mr. Chuck Yoest upon finishing as runners-up in the American Farm Bureau Federation Excellence in Agriculture Award Program, recognize them as emerging leaders in Tennessee agriculture, and wish them much continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.